Teaching With Technology – Week 5

Teaching with technology is not new but there are new tools and new methods in which to use in our teaching practices. Theorist Jerome Seymour Bruner was right when he advises to: "respect the ways children think and teaching to those ways" (Carrol, 325). The digital natives of today gather and process information using electronic mediums on a daily basis. The use of cell phones, portable computers, and cyberspace is their classroom. As educators we must embrace and acknowledge the place of 'e-learning' for our students. As acknowledged by Pitler, "With technology standards becoming an integral part of students' education, teacher are more enthusiastic that ever to learn new technologies and methods."(Pitler, Hubbell, Kuhn, & Malenoski, 2007, p.1) It mus be the goal of todays teachers to use and practice the emerging technology tools so they can integrate classroom technology instruction that works.

In Week 5 of Teaching with Technology we gained knowledge of yet another component of using technology in the classroom. Standard summative assessment of students is not meeting the needs of 21st century learners. With their engagement in cyberspace it is not only appropriate but neccesary to use assesment practices that use technology. Solomon and schrum refer to authentic assessment and suggest a different definition to the traditional view of authentic assessment. " Performance assessment cal upon the examinee to demenostrate specific skills and competencice,that is , apply the skilsll and knowledg they have mastered." (Solomom & Schrum, 2007, p.168) They suggest that the use of technology improves the abilitiy for teachers to apply formative assessments throughout the learning while also addressing the needs of students to be engaged with the learning process.

During the week we were introduced to a myriad of new tools and techniques to address the needs of our students. The challenge now is to embrace the initiative of other educators like Solomon and Schrumn to build 'news schools with new tools'.

Carrol, Joyce A. and Edward E. Wilson. "Jerome Seymour Bruner." Acts of Teaching. Eaglewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press, 1993. 323-327

Rose, D., & Meyer, A. (2002). *Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age: Universal Design for Learning*. Retrieved March 1, 2011, from Center for Applied Spcecial Technology: http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes